



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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# Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW ANNOUNCES  
MORE THAN 35,000 COMPACT DISCS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED  
TO WEST VIRGINIA IN SETTLEMENT OF ANTITRUST CHARGES**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today that 35,462 music CDs have begun arriving at public high schools, public libraries, public colleges and universities throughout the State of West Virginia. The recipients will each receive approximately 100 CDs. The CDs are valued at over \$480,000 and were received by the Office of the Attorney General as a result of a multi-state antitrust settlement with five of the largest U.S. distributors of recorded music CDs and three large retailers who agreed to pay more than \$142 million in cash and CDs nationwide.

An antitrust lawsuit was brought against the companies by West Virginia and 41 other states and three territories in 2000. Attorney General McGraw claimed the five music distributors (including their affiliated labels) and three large music retailers entered into illegal conspiracies to raise the price of recorded music to consumers. The State claimed the companies used advertising money to gain retailer compliance with minimum advertised pricing policies. The defendants in the lawsuit were music distributors Bertelsmann Music Group, Inc.; EMI Music Distribution; Warner-Elektra-Atlantic Corporation; Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.; Universal Music Group and national retail chains Transworld Entertainment Corporation, Tower Records, and Musicland Stores Corporation.

"The lawsuit and settlement demonstrate our commitment to halting corporate misconduct that causes our citizens to pay higher prices and distorts our free market economy" said Attorney General McGraw.

A wide variety of music will be represented in the CDs delivered to West Virginia, from classical to rap. Since the CDs will be given mostly to publicly funded libraries, they will be available to nearly every consumer in West Virginia. In addition to the public libraries, the CDs will be distributed to libraries at high schools, colleges and universities, as well as West Virginia public radio.

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